

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 8, 2004

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
U.S. Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1155

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As the Navy finalizes its decision on the Marine One contract, we are writing to reiterate our unqualified support for the all-American Sikorsky team.

The VH-92 follows the 2002 Collier Award-winning S-92 air vehicle. The VH-92 is designed and tested to the world's most rigorous safety standards and meets or exceeds all speed, range and altitude performance requirements. In addition, the communication system uses satellite Global Positioning System, line-of-sight and beyond line-of-sight radios seamlessly integrated at the advanced Communication System Operator (CSO) station. The CSO can establish simultaneous secure global telephone, data and video connections for all passengers.

Sikorsky helicopters have served the past 10 U.S. presidents and have maintained 99.7 percent mission readiness. The hardworking and highly qualified men and women of Sikorsky Aircraft are eager to once again deliver this fleet. We are pleased to know that Sikorsky's facility in Stratford, Connecticut, is entirely prepared to begin production of the new helicopter.

We also wish to express our concern about potential vulnerabilities to the presidential helicopter fleet should Marine One be produced with international components. Such vulnerabilities include disruption of the supply chain, risk to critical parts manufactured and sealed in a foreign country and protection of intellectual property. We are also concerned that Marine One production meets all Department of Defense security regulations. These regulations stipulate all persons directly associated with President Support Activities such as the manufacture, repair and maintenance of the presidential helicopter fleet meet the highest Defense Department security clearance requirements.

We are confident in Sikorsky Aircraft's unique ability to build an All-American helicopter deserving of the honor to fly our Commander-in-Chief.

Sincerely,



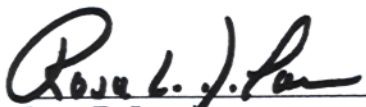
Christopher Dodd
U.S. Senator



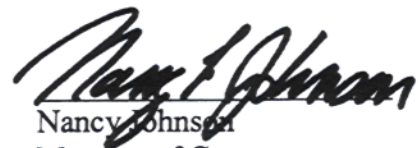
Joseph Lieberman
U.S. Senator



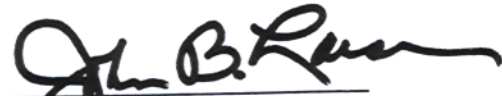
Christopher Shays
Member of Congress



Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress



Nancy Johnson
Member of Congress


John Larson
Member of Congress


Rob Simmons
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